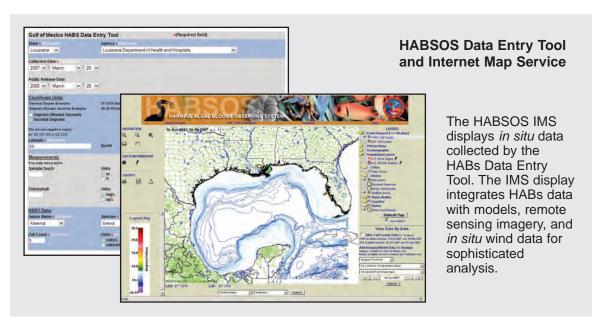# Harmful Algal Blooms Observing System (HABSOS)

The Harmful Algal Blooms Observing System (HABSOS) is a regional coalition of U.S. and Mexican Federal and State agencies working together to study HAB events within the Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem. HAB toxins introduced into the ecosystem can seriously affect the health of both of people and marine life, as well as tremendously disrupt local and regional economies. Coastal managers and researchers are now challenged to monitor, assess and even forecast these events in an effort to minimize societal impacts.

A HABSOS website and Internet tools have been developed to support this effort (tools are available in both English and Spanish language versions). A secure data entry tool is provided for collection of cell count observations of the algal species *Karenia brevis*. Data entered into this system are available for display and analysis in the HABSOS Internet Map Service (IMS). Online assessment and analysis of HAB events are enhanced through the integration of *in situ* observations, surface forecasts, and powerful satellite imagery products into the IMS.

HABSOS Highlights:

- Standardized collection of Gulf-wide HABs data
- Integrated display of HABs data with supporting data for analysis
- Direct access to the official NOAA HAB Bulletin

HABSOS Data Entry Tool and Internet Map Service

The HABSOS IMS displays *in situ* data collected by the HABs Data Entry Tool. The IMS display integrates HABs data with models, remote sensing imagery, and *in situ* wind data for sophisticated analysis.

The HABSOS and the BiNational HABSOS were developed and continue to be supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Research and Development, the EPA Office of Water Gulf of Mexico Program, and the NOAA National Coastal Data Development Center.

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